

**For Immediate Release**  
September 25, 2003

**Contact:** Shannon McMullan  
601-359-3227

## **Governor Musgrove Proclaims “Celebrate the Gulf Day”**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has proclaimed September 27, 2003, as “Celebrate the Gulf Day” as part of annual Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival on Saturday, September 27, 2003, at the Pass Christian Harbor.

“It is vital that we work together to educate our children about the importance of our marine resources so that our valuable and diverse coastal habitats will be here for our children’s children to enjoy,” said Musgrove.

The award-winning Celebrate the Gulf Marine Educational Festival is held in conjunction with National Estuaries Day. This free event offers lively hands-on exhibits addressing marine and estuarine environmental issues and recreational and commercial activities associated with the Gulf.

“Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival teaches our children about the value of our coastal habitats, such as our estuaries, which provide essential feeding and nursery habitats for many coastal species of finfish, shellfish, birds and other wildlife, provide storm and flood protection, and provide many recreational and commercial opportunities,” said William Walker, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

The sponsors of Celebrate the Gulf are: the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources/Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mississippi Power Company, Northrup Grumman Ship Systems, Gulf of Mexico Program, City of Pass Christian, ChevronTexaco and DuPont.

###